

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, September 5. 1710.

I Promised, in my last, to Examin the great Charter of the Royal Family of *Britain*, by Virtue of which, the general Entail of the Crown, appears to be settled, as I have already observ'd — And by Virtue of which Entail, the subsequent Re-settlements have still, notwithstanding the Interruptions made in the *Right-Line*, been always reserv'd to some or other Branch of the Blood Royal, tho' frequently without any Regard to the Doctrine of Primo-geniture — I shall make some entrance now, into this Work — Because I have a great Mind, if I can, to explain this mighty Mystery, of the Right of our Sovereigns, and put an end to the Dis-

rences that are risen 'amodg us, about the Affairs of Parliamentary-Right, and Hereditary-Right ; of which I have Advanc'd for Truth, and will Maintain it, that they are the very same Thing; understand alike by the whole Nation; and that our Differences about them are a mere Strife of Words, with no manner of substantial Signification.

It is evident in History, that the *Saxons* having by Conquest, how Treacherously and Unjustly I will not Examin here, posses'd this Nation, and driven the Ancient *Britains* to the Refuge of the Mountains, and inaccessible Retreats of *Wales*, *Cornwall*, *Cumberland*, &c. The *Saxons*, I say,
Divided

Divided this Kingdom, or part of Britain, from them call'd England, into a Heptarchy of Kingdoms, over which they Establish'd, by the Ancient Gothic Principles of Government, their Respective Kings.

What I call the Gothic Principles of Government, needs very little Explication, and may, as it serves to my present purpose, be Abridg'd thus; That the Nobility and Commons in these Ancient Governments, always, either Collectively or Representative, had certain reserv'd Rights which the Kings were Sworn to Maintain, as the *Postulate of Government*, and on the Foundation of which, Royalty on one Hand, and Obedience on the other, were Reciprocally Founded. — The Disputes that may arise about the Original Title, are needless to be Examin'd here; nor is the Divine Right of the first Kings of the Saxons, *Hengist* and *Horsa*, or their Successors, capable of any Demonstration, and therefore the Dispute here is perfectly needless.

That they were Captains and Leaders of Armies, who as Mercenaries, hir'd themselves out to fight for Pay, is no question —

That when by their Power they reduc'd these Kingdoms, they became Kings, is Matter of Fact — And we need make no Objection against the Foundation, since we make none against the Superstructure; no doubt the Kings Succeeding have as much a Right to Reign over this Kingdom, as we the People have to possess the Land; and that is a Title, we may very well be quiet with.

The Divided State of these Saxon Kings began to wear out, when *Egbert* King, of the West Saxons, having subdu'd five of the seven Kingdoms, caus'd the whole to be call'd by a new Name, *Engeland*, i. e. the Land of the Angles, from whence Mr. *Camden* tells us, come the Latin Word *Anglia* — This it seems was about the Year 800 — And 150 Year after this, King *Edgar* having Subdu'd all the rest, became Monarch of Great Britain, receiv'd Hommage of all the Petty Princes, remaining in that famous Story, of his being Row'd in his Barge or Pinnace upon the River

Dee, by a Boat's Crew of Kings, himself holding the Helm.

And here is the English Title to the Crown in the *Saxon* Line begun; in his Time, we read of several Parliaments or Wites-motes held, being the Assemblies of the Wise Men of the Nation, by whom his Authority was Recogniz'd; and from him to *Edward the Confessor*, you have a Line of Kings of the *Saxon* Royal Family, tho' with various Interruptions of the direct Line, as in *Edmund Ironside*, *Edgar*, *Ateling*, and King *Harold*; then by the *Norman* Conquest, and even in that Conquest King *Rufus* and *Henry I.* Reigo'd, their Elder Brother *Robert* being then alive — After this *Up-rpation* by Conquest the *Saxon* Line was restor'd again in *Henry II.* — This *Henry* was made King, his Mother *Maud* the Empress being then Living — And Mr. *Lyrell* observes, the Consent of the Nobles, i. e. the Parliament, prevail'd against the Claim by Blood: *Edward III.* was made King, his Depos'd Father *Edward II.* being alive; *Henry IV.* then Duke of *Lancaster*, in the same manner upon the Depositing or Abdication of *Richard II.* comes to the Crown, *Richard II.* being still alive; King *John* then Reign'd, and is recogniz'd by Parliament; the Right of the immediate Line, being in Prince *Arthur* his Eldest Brother's Son, and his Daughter *Eleanor*, who was living all his Reign; *Henry III.* Succeeded his Father in this pretended *Up-rpation*, the Lady *Eleanor* being still alive, in whom the immediate Descent was by Nature a Title, if that had been regarded —

From the Reign of *Henry VI.* to *Henry VII.* the Crown was toss'd in a Blanket, as we may say, or Shuttle-cock'd about from Side to Side, between the Houses of *Lancaster* and *York*, till they were both United in the Old British Race of *Owen Tudor*, Marryed in the Person of *Henry* Duke of *Richmond*, of the House of *Lancaster*, to *Elizabeth* Daughter of *Edward IV.* of the House of *York*.

Here the Lines being United, the British Race of Kings are restor'd, in the Sirname of *Tudor*, they are joyn'd with the *Saxon*, and again Recogniz'd by Parliament in

in the Preamble to the *Act 1 Hen. VII.* cap. 1. and *1 Hen. VII.* cap. 6. and from this Prince, the Inheritance of the Crown, of *England* Descended to the Family of *Stu-
art*, the Royal Blood of the Kings of *Scot-
land*: The *Eng/ish* Line failing in Queen *Elizabeth*, the Re-*mainder* of the *Entail* was only found in *Margaret*, Daughter of *Hen.
VII.* and her Heirs, who being Marry'd to *James IV.* King of *Scotland*, left one Son who was afterwards *James V.* Father of *Queen Mary*; also she left one other Son by the Duke of *Lenox*, whose Son, *Henry Lord Darnly*, Marry'd the said Queen *Mary*, and by her, had *James V.* whose De-*scendant* was particular in this, that his great Grandmother both by Father side and Mo-

ther side, was the same Person, viz. the Lady *Margaret* Daughter of *Henry VII*; yet this King *James* was allow'd King, while his Mother was yet alive, and con-*tinued* so many Years.

All these Things make it evident, that the Crown of these Kingdoms can be no other wise Hereditary, than by the Inheri-*tance* being *Entail'd* on the Royal Family, and special to the Family, is not prescrib'd to this or that particular Branch, but being reserv'd to the Blood Royal, the declaring the Inheritance resjs in the Parliament: And thus I make out my *Parliamentary-
Hereditary Right*, let him that Disputes it, Contradict me if he can.

MISCELLANEA.

IT is very remarkable, and I take this Notice of it, to let the Gentlemen know I see it; that I am teiz'd every Day with Letters to prompt me, *who have hitherto needed no prompting*, to speak plain, to something that may Embroil my self with the new Ministry — And very Angry they are, that I will not fall into the Snare.

But I shall Answer these Gentlemen, plainer than they expect — The Case of the New Ministry, and the Case of the Author of the Review, however opposite, (*with Pardon for the Comparison*) stand exactly on the same Foot — While they (*the Mi-
nistry*) do nothing in Breach of the Laws, nothing against the Constitution, nothing to be Legally Objec~~ted~~ed agaist; tho' I make no court to them on one Hand — Yet I have nothing to do, to Affront them on the other — *Vice versa*, While I write or speak nothing but Truth, and that Truth, however plainly, yet with Decen-*cy* and Respect; they can have *nothing to say to me* — Again, take the Alternative — When the Ministry Tyrannize, when they Break the Laws, when they Misapply the Treasure, when they Invade our Pro-

perties, when they Destroy the Constitu-*tion*; as mean as I am, and as great as they are, let me pass for a *Time-server*, if I spare them — And in the mean time, If I break the Laws, insult Government, slander Ma-*gistracy*, or revile the Rulers of the People — Let them not spare me, I ask no Favour.

He therefore, *who ever he was*, that Publish'd a Paper in the City of *Edinburgh*, Entitl'd *Now or Never*, in which, with a Head as full of Ignorance, as a Heart full of Malice, he takes upon him to Prompt my Lord *D — b*, to whom he Addresses his Libel, to fall upon the Author of the Review — Has most Scandalously abused my Lord *D — b*, as well as betray'd his own Folly — And were it not that his seeming a Stranger to *England*, may make some excuse for his Ridiculous Excusior, I should farther expo~~le~~ him — His long Harangue is to push that Noble Person, now Secretary of State, upon Punishing or Prosecuting the Author of the Review — In Answer to which, I'd tell him a Sto-*ry*.

When

When the Czar of Muscovy was here in England, it was Reported, *I do not say it was true*, that seeing a Fine Appearance of English Ladies, on some Publick Occasion, and Admiring their Beauty, he desir'd the King to order Twenty or Thirty of them to be sent to him; to which his Majesty reply'd, It was not here, as in Muscovy, and that it was not in his Power to Command one of them against her Consent, for they were Protected by the Laws.

I say again, this was but a Report, I do not say the Story was Fact, but the Moral is to the purpose, whe her the Story were true, or no; English Men enjoy a Thing call'd Liberty — And are Protected by the Laws — No Man can be Punished here, but by the Judgment of the Law, after a fair Hearing, and a Verdict *Per Pares* — A Priviledge, I hope Scotland will now learn to Value, and which they will gain by the Union: This Gentleman talks to my Lord D—b, as if his Lordship lived in Scotland, and the Union was not made; when the Privy Counsel could make Laws, and Proclamations were to be obey'd like Acts of Parliament; But, Sir, in England, Thanks be to God, and King William, it is not so — To ask a Minister of State in England to punish a Man, and not tell

him what Law he has Transgress'd, not Charge him with some Crime, not bring your Indictment, is to ask a Minister of State to Att against himself, and is an Affront upon him, Reproaching his Lordship's Understanding, Suggesting he is as Mad, as the Author would have him be.

I have been desir'd to bestow an Answer to that Ridiculous Paper, but I really think, Gentlemen, it Merits no better Answer than this, to be laugh'd at for its Ignorance: Let it but come to England — There the Ignorance of it is laugh'd at by its Friends, as the Malice of it is contemn'd by its Enemies — To talk at his Rate in England, is to tell the World the Man is Lunatick — And 'tis a full Answer, Sir, according to the Story above — We see what you want, but the Ministers of State will tell you, *it is not in their Power* — To punish without Law, and Prosecute without Crime, is not the English Way, it never was yet, we hope we shall not be easily brought to it — And that Author ought to ask my Lord D—b Pardon, for Suggesting that it was either in his Lordship's Inclination, or that his Lordship should attempt any thing, Arbitrary and Illegal.

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